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Breathing Insole May Employ Handicapped

A plan to utilize a huge labor force now largely idle has been proposed by a Ballantine man.

Bernard W. Oltrogge has a patent on a ventilated insole, and plans to have them manufactured and assembled by handicapped persons in their own homes.

The completed insoles consist of sponge rubber heel and arch sections, and a plastic hose with built-in valves which extends to the top of the shoe. As the heel lifts, air is sucked in through the hose. Weight on the heel forces the air into another compartment under the ball of the foot, which in turn forces the air out into the shoe. This product, according to Oltrogge, "may help to solve a big problem for the tired clerk, nurse, waitress, or postman—anybody with tired feet."

Equipment for assembling the air intake, valves, compressible supports, leather insoles, and plastic sales bag will be furnished handicapped persons, who will

then finish the insoles in their homes on a piece-work basis. Oltrogge estimates that more than 100 handicapped persons, unable to secure other work, may be employed eventually in this venture.

That handicapped persons are an untapped labor force is attested to by Leif Fredericks, State Director of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. Over 1,300 persons who are physically or mentally handicapped to the extent that they are unable to engage in normal economic activity are registered on Bureau rolls. Last year 400 handicapped persons were rehabilitated for gainful employment. This rehabilitation was good for the community as well as the individual, because the handicapped persons were removed from county welfare rolls and made self-supporting.

Oltrogge's insole, should it become a popular product, may provide work for many Montana residents.

Town Finds Growth Brings Problems

A striking example of what happens when new industry comes to a community is evident right here in Montana—in one of our smaller communities.

Two companies, Meagher County Land and Timber Company and Vollstedt Kerr Lumber Company, both of Portland, Oregon, are building large new lumber mills in White Sulphur Springs.

This town of 1,000 people until now has had a static economy, one tied to the surrounding sheep and cattle ranches. Population has not changed appreciably in the past few decades. Therefore, new economic activity is having quite an impact.

Growth Problems

It is estimated that a total of 250 workers (including loggers, truckers, and saw-mill employees) soon will be employed in the lumber industry in White Sulphur. A serious housing shortage has already developed, and promises to become worse. One company is bringing in a dozen prefabs; many people are living in mobile homes and temporary shacks. Another problem is extension of water and sewer connections to the new houses once they are built, and expanding the school system. All these problems make great demands on the present tax base, but once the new growth is established, the tax base will expand.

Meagher County Lumber Company is a Montana subsidiary of John Buchanan of Portland, who was low bidder on the large Moose Creek timber sale (85 million board feet) of the U. S. Forest Service last month. While the present sale was for only an 8-year period, the mill operation is expected to be permanent.

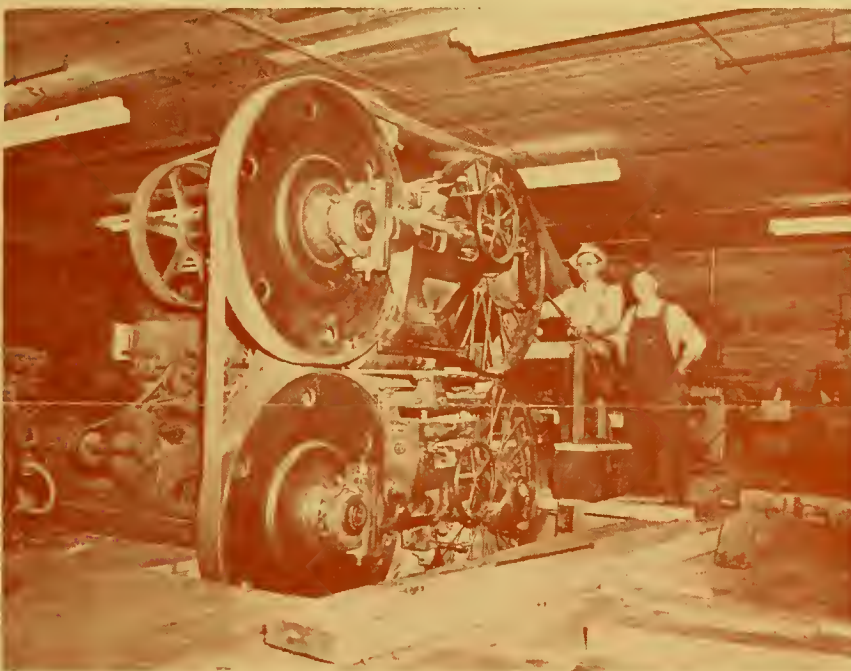
Vollstedt Kerr, Fred Vollstedt, President, is expanding its mill to include a new planer, a stud mill, and a gang and tie mill. Employment will reach 100 at peak capacity. The mill will handle timber from both private and Forest Service lands.

Other lumbering activity in the surrounding Belt and Castle Mountains includes two smaller mills handling timber from private land, and Corcoran Lumber Company, which is shipping pulpwood to Midwestern pulp mills.

Townpeople Not Unanimous

Opinion on this growth in White Sulphur is divided. Some residents, remembering the town's former absence of growth problems, are not so enthusiastic about all the new activity. Others, however, are conscious of the benefits coming with growth—increased retail sales and services, fewer young people having to leave town to find jobs, and a probable increased tax base.

The thing everyone in White Sulphur Springs realizes is that with economic growth comes many difficult problems.



(Mel Ruder Photo)

A boost for the Flathead economy is the new box plant Plum Creek Lumber Company opened last month in Columbia Falls.

D. C. Dunham, President, says the new plant will employ 30 men, bringing total Plum Creek employment in Columbia Falls to about 200. The firm is already the largest lumber mill operation in the Flathead area, with a payroll of \$70,000 a month.

Pictured above is the new horizontal twin band box resaw in the new operation. Other new machinery installed include two sets of rip-saws, a nailer, gang rip-saw, box matcher, and box band squeezer. Market for the boxes will be mostly steel manufacturers.

Plum Creek in Columbia Falls for several years has been supplying lumber for its Bemidji, Minnesota, box factory. Making the complete product in Montana is a further step in the state's industrial development.

CITY PLANNING WELL ESTABLISHED IN SEVERAL MONTANA CITIES

Urban planning is definitely off to a good start in Montana.

This is the conclusion to be drawn from an informal survey of planning activities recently conducted by the State Planning Board.

Community leaders all over the state are discovering by practical experience the benefits from intelligent foresight applied to community problems. They are finding that many thousands of tax dollars can be saved by coordination of plans for public works. If a town knows the direction it is growing, and how much it can expect to grow, it will be better able to prepare for that growth.

City planning is a very practical aid to city government, according to Alfred F. Klingler, Executive Director of the Montana Municipal League, made up of city officials around the state. "We heartily recommend immediate implementation of city planning. Everybody's job will be made easier".

Billings Has Planner, \$20,000

Planning has probably gone furthest in Billings, where the city and county governments each appropriated \$10,000 for city planning both in 1957 and 1958. A professional city planner, the only one in the state, has been working on a master plan for nine months and expects to have it completed in another nine months. "After that, though, the fun starts," comments Planner Ron Thompson. "The most important part of a master plan is how it is accepted and implemented."

The Billings City Council and Yellowstone County Commissioners have formed a joint planning board under the legislation recently passed by the legislature. In fact, the two governing bodies have had a cooperative working agreement for the past year, and their experience provided some of the basis for the new legislation.

Butte, Great Falls Plan

Planning is also progressing in Montana's other two largest cities. Great Falls and Cascade County have formed a joint board, and \$10,050 has been appropriated for its 1958 operations. This figure includes \$8,500 for the services of a professional planning engineer. The City of Great Falls, in addition to providing \$5,450 of the budget, has agreed to provide a part-time secretary, stenographic help, office equipment, and an office. "Great Falls definitely is investigating the possibility of applying for an Urban Planning Assistance Grant through HHFA," according to H. Cleveland Hall, chairman of the new joint board.

Butte's Community Planning Council, an advisory group representative of all economic groups, is in the process of being changed into a city planning commission. This is the first step in formation of a new joint city-county planning board under the new legislation. City and county government have each appropriated \$3,750 for operation of the board. The Community Planning Council (with funds supplied by the city and county) retained Jonathan Cunningham of Spokane during 1956 to do a land use study of Butte. This has now been completed, according to L. S. Veazey, Jr., chairman,

and the Council is thinking of recommending application for a federal planning grant.

Bozeman Grant Approved

Under this grant, Housing and Home Finance Agency pays up to half the costs of a planning program. Cities over 25,000 apply directly to Mr. L. R. Durkee, Area Representative, Housing and Home Finance Agency, 450 Federal Office Building, Seattle. Cities under 25,000 (1950 census) apply through the State Planning Board. Helena, HHFA approved the first application from Montana last month. Under the grant the Bozeman City Commission contributes \$4,350 in cash and \$3,000 in the form of services of city employees. HHFA contributes \$7,350, for a total project cost of \$14,700. S. R. DeBoer and Company, planning consultants from Denver, have been retained to make a master plan and help get the plan implemented. The project will be completed in 32 months.

Smaller Cities Plan

Several other Montana communities are beginning planning programs. Kalispell and Flathead County have formed a joint planning board under the new legislation. Official city planning commissions have been implemented in Livingston, Bozeman, Lewistown, Missoula, and Havre. Libby is considering a planning commission to cope with serious growth problems expected in the near future. Other cities considering planning commissions include Anaconda, Miles City, Glendive, Sidney, Helena, and Glasgow. Glendive had a master plan done in 1952.

Besides these efforts to deal effectively on the local level with growth problems, other developments are occurring on the state-wide level. Both Montana State University and Montana State College are giving courses in urban planning. MSU teaches urban geography and urban sociology, while MSC gives courses in layout of city plans in the Department of Architecture.

New Law for Planning

With the passage of the city planning legislation by the last legislative session (copies of the law are available from the State Planning Board), many Montanans are wondering what the next step is. Several cities are interested in urban renewal—a process by which slums may be replaced with new buildings. Such a program in Montana cities would require special enabling legislation by the legislature. Once the legislation is passed, cities would be allowed to accept federal funds and participate in an urban renewal project.

While city planning is off to a good start, we still have a long, hard way to go. It is possible to mold our home towns into what we want them to be. One of the first steps is forming an organization for planning.

MSU Publication Tells of Growing Suburban Problems

"Some Implications of Our Growing Suburbs" is the title of the June, 1957, issue of "Montana Business," written by Professor W. Gordon Browder of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare at Montana State University.

Professor Browder estimates that 68,963 persons lived in suburbs surrounding incorporated towns in Montana in 1950. This represents almost 12 per cent of Montana's population at that time.

Browder concludes, "Although expanding suburbs are generally considered to be concrete evidence of healthy urban growth, they are not always unmixed blessings from the standpoint of the central municipalities involved. They bring in their wake problems of political, social, and economic significance, many of which may prove extremely difficult of solution"

"The suburbs and the problems they create are no doubt here to stay. The urban community, in Montana as elsewhere in the United States, must learn to live with and profit from its new suburbia. But urban problems today cannot be met with hit-or-miss methods; the realistic approach is to develop adequate plans to deal both with immediate problems and long-range policy. If cities are to grow not only bigger, but also better, city planning which includes the suburban as well as the strictly urban aspects of the community must be developed and applied."

In Montana, the agency for dealing with suburban planning problems is the joint city-county planning board.

Copies of the full publication are available from Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Montana State University, Missoula.

CITIES NEED TO RESERVE RECREATIONAL AREAS

By Jack Hallowell
State Advertising Director

Recreation is so much a part of the lives of Montanans some fail to appreciate the tremendous recreational advantages they have.

It seems inconceivable that Montana ever could become so crowded that one community would run into another, that traffic could become so heavy a cab would be preferred to the family car or that there would be no room left for a baseball field.

Yet these things are happening every day in U. S. communities which once were like ours.

Modern city planning demands that spacious and well situated areas be set aside for the recreational enjoyment of the citizens of each community.

Such recreational areas are an investment in the happiness and health of our people.

Butte Chamber of Commerce mailed a new brochure "Butte Is Montana" to 2,000 manufacturers, distributors, and wholesalers recently. The booklet describes the advantages of locating in Butte.

Meetings to Deal With Missouri Valley Problems

Two important meetings concerned with resource development in the Missouri Basin are scheduled for this fall.

The first is a meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee in Helena on September 17 and 18. This is a coordinating group for the seven Federal agencies involved in resource development, and the ten states of the Missouri Basin (Montana, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Minnesota, and Nebraska). Governor Aronson has invited all nine of his fellow governors to attend the meeting which is open to the public. All persons interested in the development of

public works in eastern Montana would do well to attend this meeting.

The second meeting is the fifth annual conference of the Missouri Basin Research and Development Council, to be held at Vermillion, South Dakota, October 9-11. The theme of the conference will be "Adaptations to the Changing Economy of the Nation"—how we in the Great Plains can take advantage of economic trends in the rest of the country. Speakers will include persons concerned with research on economic problems in this part of the country, including President R. R. Renne of Montana State College. Further information available from the State Planning Board.

Director Perry F. Roys of the State Planning Board is scheduled to attend the President's Conference on Technical and Distribution Research for the Benefit of Small Business in Washington, D.C., September 23-25. Speakers will include top government officials and executives of research organizations. Roys also will contact industrial prospects in the East and Middle West.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a second power plant at Fort Peck Dam were held August 23, 1957, sponsored by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce military affairs committee. Present power production at Fort Peck is 85,000 kilowatts per hour; the new installation will increase production by 80,000 kw. First power will be generated in 1961.



Work on Cochrane Dam is 55 per cent completed, according to Montana Power Company officials. The 60,000 kilowatt concrete-gravity hydroelectric plant is being built on the Missouri River near Great Falls, and reflects a faith in the future economic growth of Montana. Over 250 men are employed on the project.

Completion is expected early in 1958, when the utility's 13th hydro plant will join the Montana Power system. The new generating station will boost the system's capability to 671,000 kilowatts—nearly twice the amount of power available from Montana Power at the end of World War II. Since that time, there has been a 90 per cent increase in the number of industrial customers served by Montana Power (now 2,778).

Besides the Cochrane construction job, Montana Power is engaged in expanding facilities in several other fields. Nearly completed is the first leg of a new 161,000 volt electric transmission line from Kerr Dam near Polson to Anaconda. The line will go to Missoula this year and into Anaconda in 1958. Gas field improvements are being made to company properties in Alberta, and gas service is being extended to the new Waldorf Paper Products mill west of Missoula.

Great Falls has been a center of hydroelectric power production in Montana since 1891, when a rock-filled crib dam was built at Black Eagle Falls to supply power for the smelter. With Cochrane, the 16-mile stretch of the Missouri River just downstream from the city of Great Falls will be harnessed by five hydroelectric projects, and will produce 220,000 kilowatts—a third of all the power generated by Montana Power facilities.

(Montana Power Co. Photo)

NO SMOKE STACKS FOR PHILLIPS COUNTY

While few people will deny the desirability of industrial expansion in this area, anyone who thinks in terms of a plant with a huge smoke stack or miles of assembly lines is probably only building castles in the air.

It doesn't require a Ph. D. in economics to understand why northern Montana needs new sources of employment. Neither does it take a Ph. D. to know that any developments which occur in this area will probably be infinitesimal in comparison to industrial plants which sprawl across the landscape of Michigan and Pennsylvania.

We don't believe that any of our readers want huge steel plants or automobile factories defacing our countryside. What we want and need is some new business which will provide 10 or 20 or 50 or 100 jobs in this immediate area. Sounds insignificant, perhaps, but if Malta should ever be called upon to accommodate a plant employing 50 people there would be a readjustment which would give the city a burst of activity the likes of which it has never seen.

The easiest thing in the world is to relax in a coffee shop and gripe about the town's apparent lack of enthusiasm for expansion. It is quite a different matter, however, to get off your fanny and search out the type of development which our area can support and which in turn can give our community a new lease on life.

To twiddle our thumbs and think that completion of the Missouri river bridge and highway 19 will give Malta the shot in the arm that it needs is ridiculous. While Malta enjoys a certain initial advantage, it might well amount to nothing in the final analysis unless some attempt is made to exploit it. Several neighboring communities are eager to take over the dominant position in the transportation picture if we don't wake up soon.

Malta sorely needs an industrial development committee representing all segments of our population. We need a realistic survey of the resources which are available and an assessment of their potential value. We need an interested, energetic group to do the months of legwork which might be required to develop even a glimmer of a hope.

A few years ago, wheat straw was only something which the combine spewed back into the fields after extracting the precious golden kernels. Wheat straw is now the basic raw material for a new product which gives promise of providing Havre with an industry of vast economic import.

Perhaps we also can find some asset with hidden value in Phillips county.

—By Paul E. Verdon, Phillips County News, July 8, 1957.

What New England Does to Attract Industry

Industrial Horizons last month had an article entitled "Inquiries Raise Questions: Are We Competitive?" The article pointed out that other areas of the country really desire new industry. They are working hard to raise manufacturing employment. This issue we review the experience of one area—New England and its industrial development corporations.

These corporations are groups of local people who have pooled their efforts to increase manufacturing employment in their region. They obtain their funds by voluntary subscriptions from other local individuals. Their function is commonly to take options on industrial sites. In a more advanced stage, they sometimes supply plant space on a lease or long-term purchase basis to new manufacturing activity. In New England, they also make long-term loans to small manufacturers.

At least 75 local industrial development corporations had been organized in

New England through 1955, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. These groups had raised \$4,528,000 from about 14,000 stockholders, noteholders, and contributors. Development corporations had built 60 new plants with 2,234,550 square feet of space and had purchased and modernized 167 vacant buildings containing 13,595,000 square feet of space for lease or sale to manufacturers. The 23 corporations which have loaned funds had made 82 loans aggregating \$3,190,900. Altogether, these 75 development corporations had assisted 425 manufacturers employing around 36,000 workers.

Corporations Do the Job

Local development corporations are definitely filling a need in New England, the Federal Reserve Bank concludes.

A growing number of manufacturers are basing location decisions on careful investigation of many factors. They are searching for increased amounts of local

Manufacturers' Directory To Be Compiled

Data for a directory of Montana manufacturers is being collected by the Montana State College Engineering Experiment Station. A questionnaire has been sent to all known manufacturers in the state requesting information about products made, materials used, and production capacity.

The listing will be useful to Montana firms in several ways. It will give information about markets, sources of supply, and distribution opportunities. In addition, it will help out-of-state firms to evaluate the possibilities of locating a new plant in Montana.

The project is being carried out cooperatively by the State Planning Board and the Experiment Station, working through the MSC Research and Endowment Foundation. Director of the project is Howard L. Huffman, Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering at MSC. A winter publication date is expected.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce two years ago published an "Industrial Survey and Directory of Manufacturers of Montana." MSC and the State Planning Board this year agreed to assume responsibility for preparation of a revised edition.

Other states have found this type of book helpful in industrial development work. All manufacturers are urged to complete the questionnaire to make the listing complete. Questionnaires are available from the Engineering Experiment Station, Montana State College, Bozeman, for those manufacturers who should be listed but have not been contacted in the survey.

economic data and are evaluating community attitudes toward industry more carefully. Development corporations can well be the agency for compiling and presenting the types of locational information manufacturers want. In addition, the existence of a local development corporation is evidence of a receptive attitude toward manufacturers and a willingness to help them.

These corporations are an example of industrial tools used in other areas of the country. They are easily adaptable to Montana conditions (see article in INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS, March, 1956). Several communities in this state have already formed such groups. If we are to utilize our resources to the utmost, we must begin using some of the tools of the game.

MONTANA STATE PLANNING BOARD

Sam Mitchell Building

Helena, Montana

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